

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01
OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 /081 W
-----101213Z 122457 /10

R 101015Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6599
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0029

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LT, US
SUBJECT: CALL ON PRIMIN LEABUA JONATHAN

REF: MASERU 0020

1. SUMMARY. MY INITIAL CALL JANUARY 7 ON PRIMIN JONATHAN PROVIDED AN OCCASION FOR HIM TO PRESENT A VIGOROUS, WIDE-RANGING, ARTICULATE, ONE AND THREE-QUARTER HOUR EXPOSITION OF LESOTHO'S POLICIES AND ATTITUDES CONCERNING (A) THE U.S., ITS CURRENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND PROSPECTIVE GOL NEEDS, (B) SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING SAG, ZIMBABWE, TRANSKEI AND THE UN, (C) "FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS" AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN LESOTHO, (D) THE ROLE OF LESOTHO AS A CONFERENCE CENTER FOR FUTURE AAI-TYPE MEETINGS AND (E) THE NEED FOR EQUAL TREATMENT FOR LESOTHO IN U.S. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION. SEPARATE MESSAGES (MOSTLY TELEGRAMS) REPORT ON THE MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST IN PM'S PRESENTATION. OUTLINED HEREIN ARE BRIEF
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STATEMENTS OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MEETING WITH THE PM, A SUMMARY OF HIS OBSERVATIONS ON U.S.- GOL RELATIONS, AND SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON LIKELY MOTIVATIONS FOR HIS UNUSUAL PERSONAL ATTENTION.

2. INITIAL CALL ON PM WAS SCHEDULED JAN. 7 WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS (REFTEL). IN ATTENDANCE WERE FONMIN

MOLAPO, DCM STOKES AND ONE OF PM'S PRIVATE SECRETARIES TAKING NOTES (AS DID WE). WE EXPECTED, ON BASIS OF RECENT PRACTICES, A HALF-HOUR CALL TO INCLUDE REVIEW BY PM OF GOL-US RELATIONS, GOL PROBLEMS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, ETC. AFTER OPENING WITH PERFUNCTORY QUESTION (IN ENGLISH) ABOUT MY MEETING WITH HM, THE PM TOOK OUT A PAPER WITH 9 BRIEF ITEMS HEADINGS LISTED ON IT (WHICH I COULD READ WHILE SITTING NEXT TO HIM). THEY INCLUDED "THANKS FOR PAST ASSISTANCE, SOUTH AFRICAN ATTITUDES, CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM, AAI CONFERENCE, AIRPORT PROJECT", ETC.

3. SPEAKING WITHOUT NOTES AND WITH FONMIN INTERPRETING HIS REMARKS FROM SESOTHO (BUT NOT REQUIRING INTERPRETATION OF MY BRIEF COMMENTS), THE PM PROCEEDED OVER THE NEXT ONE AND THREE-QUARTER HOURS TO OUTLINE AD SERIATIM GOL POLICIES ON EACH OF THE NINE ITEMS IN CLEAR, VIGOROUS, METHODICAL MANNER. WHILE HIS RATHER SEVERE, COMMANDING DEMEANOR WAS ONLY OCCASIONALLY BROKEN BY A SMILE (AND DESPITE ATMOSPHERE OF WHAT HE TERMED OPEN FRANKNESS, INVITING FRANKNESS IN TURN) PM'S OBSERVATIONS ON PRESENT U.S.-GOL RELATIONS WERE UNIFORMLY WARM AND FRIENDLY AND WITHOUT ANY INDICATION OF PROBLEMS. U.S. ASSISTANCE IN SOIL CONSERVATION HE TERMED A "MODEL" TO BE EXPANDED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. HE LAUDED PEACE CORPS, CLAIMING CREDIT FOR HAVING SIGNED THE AGREEMENT THAT BROUGHT THE PC TO LESOTHO. HE EXPECIALLY PRAISED OUR ROLE DURING THE RECENT UNSC DEBATE AND SAID IT WOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN. FINALLY, HE INDICATED HE WOULD TURN TO THE U.S. (AS WELLAS CANADA) FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE TO COMPENSATE THE FOL FOR HIGHER COSTS DUE TO THE SAG'S DECISION TO RETALIATE AGAINST LESOTHO BY WITHDRAWING THE SUBSIDY ON MAIZE IMPORTS.

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4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE PM'S PRACTICE OF GENERALLY LEAVING ROUTINE FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO HIS MINISTER AND GIVING DIPLOMATS CORRECT (BUT BRIEF) TREATMENT, THE QUESTION ARISES AS TO THE REASONS FOR THIS UNUSUAL WARMTH AND ATTENTION. THE CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT THE PM'S FULL AND FRANK TALK, AS WELL AS HM'S PERSONAL COURTESIES, THE FONMIN'S RECEPTION FOR ME (ATTENDED INTER ALIA BY 10 OF 11 PRINCIPAL MINISTERS AND SOME 60 OTHER RANKING OFFICIALS AND WIVES) REPRESENTS A CALCULATED GOL EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR LESOTHO'S COMPLAINT IN UNSC AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA OVER TRANSKEI BORDER. FROM LESOTHO'S VIEWPOINT AS A SMALL ENCLAVE IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE SUPPORT OF VITAL PRINCIPLE, THAT RISKS SERIOUS REPRISALS BY ITS POWERFUL NEIGHBOR. (ONE OF SUCH REPRISALS HAS ALREADY BEEN FELT. SEE PARA 3 AND SEPTEL.) AT SUCH A TIME MORE THAN EVER, LESOTHO NEEDED ITS POWERFUL FRIENDS, I.E., THE WEST AND ESPECIALLY THE U.S. AND WE WERE NOT WANTING. HENCE THESE GESTURES OF APPRECIATION -- WHICH SHOULD APPROPRIATELY GO TO DEPT AND UN, ALONG WITH THANKS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED AMERICANS WHO WORK AND LIVE IN LESOTHO. MORE IMPORTANT, ONE OF OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES HERE, NAMELY GOL SUPPORT ON MULTILATERAL ISSUE, WAS

ALSO SERVED.

5. THE BEST EXPLANATION FOR THE PM'S UNUSUAL FRANKNESS ABOUT "FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS" IN LESOTHO IS CLEARLY A REACTION TO THE ONE OR TWO SOUR NOTES RUMORED TO HAVE COME FROM PARTICIPANTS AT THE RECENT AAI CONFERENCE. PM'S REPEATED MENTION OF HIS PERSONAL CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WAS CLEARLY DESIGNED FOR A WIDER AUDIENCE.

6. DETAILS ON THESE AND OTHER PRINCIPAL POINTS OF INTEREST ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Subject: CALL ON PRIMIN LEABUA JONATHAN
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Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8cf4b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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